

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CPR-02 AID-20 NEA-10 RSR-01

RSC-01 /078 W

----- 078249

R 161302 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1883

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2737

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA VISIT TO U. S.

REF: A. STATE 087834

B. TUNIS 2489

1. I BRIEFED FONMIN MASMOUDI ON PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS REGARDING BOURGUIBA PRIVATE VISIT TO U. S. DURING MEETING MAY 15, SINCE MASMOUDI HAD BEEN AWAY AT TIME OF AMBASSADOR' S MEETING WITH HABIB CHATTI ON MAY 5 (REF B). I WENT OVER SAME POINTS PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO CHATTI, OUTLINING PRIVATE NATURE OF VISIT, AND AT SAME TIME ADDING ADDITIONAL SUGGESTION THAT VISIT DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT TO USG.

2. MATTER OF " PRIVATE" VISIT SEEMED TO RAISE NO PROBLEMS AT ALL FOR MASMOUDI; AT LEAST HE DID NOT COMMENT ON THIS ASPECT. HE SAID THAT VISIT WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH BOURGUIBA AND THAT HE WOULD LET US KNOW ABOUT TIMING. HE GIVE IMPRESSION THAT VISIT IN DECEMBER MIGHT WELL BE CONVENIENT FOR BOURGUIBA AS WELL.

3. REGARDING SUBSTANCE, MASMOUDI NOTED ONLY THAT BOURGUIBA MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD BE REGARDED BY MANY AS BEING DIRECTED MAINLY TOWARD MIDDLE EASTERN QUESTION. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST MIGHT BE AT THAT TIME, NOTING VARIOUS PRESSURES IN ARAB WORLD FOR
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RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES (WHICH, HE ADDED, GOT DEFINITELY
DID NOT WANT).

4. SUBSEQUENT TO THIS TALK, AID DIRECTOR GERARD HAD BRIEF
CONVERSATION WITH CHATTI, WHO MENTIONED THAT DECEMBER
VISIT WOULD CAUSE SOME PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS.
WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP LATER WITH CHATTI OR WITH AMBASSADOR
EL GOULLI, WHO NOW IN TUNIS.
RELPH

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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